

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ROME 14441 181916Z

64

ACTION IO-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-08 NEA-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03

H-01 INR-05 L-01 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 DRC-01 /063 W

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R 181735Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7555

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 14441

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, XF, IS

SUBJECT: ITALIAN VOTE ON PLO ISSUE AT UNGA

SUMMARY. FULL RATIONALE FOR ITALIAN AFFIRMATIVE VOTE ON PLO ISSUES IN UNGA REMAINS UNCLEAR. FOREIGN MINISTRY PUBLISHED EXPLANATION TENDS TO BE SELF-CONTRADICTIONARY. FOREIGN MINISTRY SOURCES EXPLAIN AWAY THE VOTE AS BEING MERELY QUOTE PROCEDURAL UNQUOTE AND THAT GOI BELIEVES THE IMPORTANT DEBATE, ON A SUBSTANTIVE RESOLUTION, IS THE ONE TO FOCUS ON. END SUMMARY.

1. FOREIGN MINISTRY'S RATIONALE FOR UNGA VOTE, RELEASED ON OCTOBER 16, MAKES FOLLOWING PRINCIPLE POINTS:

(A) ISSUE WAS ON A PROCEDURAL POINT, EVEN THOUGH GOI
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PAGE 02 ROME 14441 181916Z

ACKNOWLEDGES PALESTINIAN QUESTION HAS POLITICAL AS WELL

AS HUMANITARIAN ASPECTS;

(B) MOVING THIS PROBLEM QUOTE WITHIN THE AREA OF INTER-NATIONAL LEGALITY UNQUOTE MAY HELP PARTIES TO GIVE UP EXTREMIST ATTITUDES AND RECOURSE TO VIOLENCE;

(C) ITALIAN VOTE DOES NOT REPRESENT A GOI STAND ON THE QUOTE MODE IN WHICH THE PLO REPRESENTS THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE SINCE IT IS NOT UP TO STRANGERS TO PRONOUNCE THEMSELVES UNQUOTE ON THIS ISSUE. INSTEAD IT SHOWS ITALIAN AWARENESS THAT PLO, WHOLE ROLE IN THE PALESTINIAN QUESTION CANNOT BE DENIED, A CHANCE TO EXPRESS THEIR VIEWS IN ORDERLY DEBATE. NEGOTIATIONS FOR PEACE SHOULD PROFIT THEREFROM.

(D) ITALY REAFFIRMS VALIDITY OF RESA. NO. 242.

(E) WOULD HAVE BEEN PREFERABLE FOR NINE TO HAVE ATTAINED A COMMON POSITION.

2. BEYOND FOREGONG, FOREIGN MINISTRY SOURCE TOLD EMBOFF THAT ITALY, KNOWING THE RESOLUTION WOULD PASS BY A BIG VOTE, CONSIDERED THAT IT SHOULD NOT APPEAR ANTI-ARAB IN ORDER TO CONSERVE OR EVEN EXPAND ITS LEVERAGE WITH THE ARAB STATES FOR USE DURING THE UPCOMING DISCUSSIONS ON SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES RE PALESTINE.

3. ISRAELI EMBOFF TELL US THAT GAJA GAVE ISRAELI AMBASSADOR, WHO CALLED ON GAJA TO PROTEST, SOME ADDITIONAL RATIONALE OF A SENSITIVE NATURE, WHICH ISRAELIS STILL DID NOT CONCLUDE WARRANTED ITALIAN STAND.

4. EVIDENT EQUIVOCATIONS AND INHERENT CONTRADICTIONS IN FARNESINA STATEMENT HAVE DRAWN SOME FIRE FROM LOCAL CONSERVATIVE AND CENTER PRESS, VARIOUS FARNESINA CONTACTS AT WORKING LEVEL, PLUS SOME COLLEAGUES IN EMBASSIES OF OTHER EC COUNTRIES, EXPRESSING SOME DISILLUSION WITH ITALIAN STAND AND DISAPPOINTMENT THAT, DESPITE ASPIRATIONS FOR UNITED POLITICAL STANDS, THE NINE COULD NOT PULL TOGETHER ON THIS PROBLEM. VOLPE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MEMBERSHIP, LIBERATION FRONTS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 OCT 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974ROME14441
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740298-0100
From: ROME
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741035/aaaabdsj.tel
Line Count: 99
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <04 APR 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <01 AUG 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ITALIAN VOTE ON PLO ISSUE AT UNGA SUMMARY. FULL RATIONALE FOR ITALIAN AFFIRMATIVE VOTE ON PLO
TAGS: PFOR, XF, IS
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005